



EUGENE OUTDOORS!

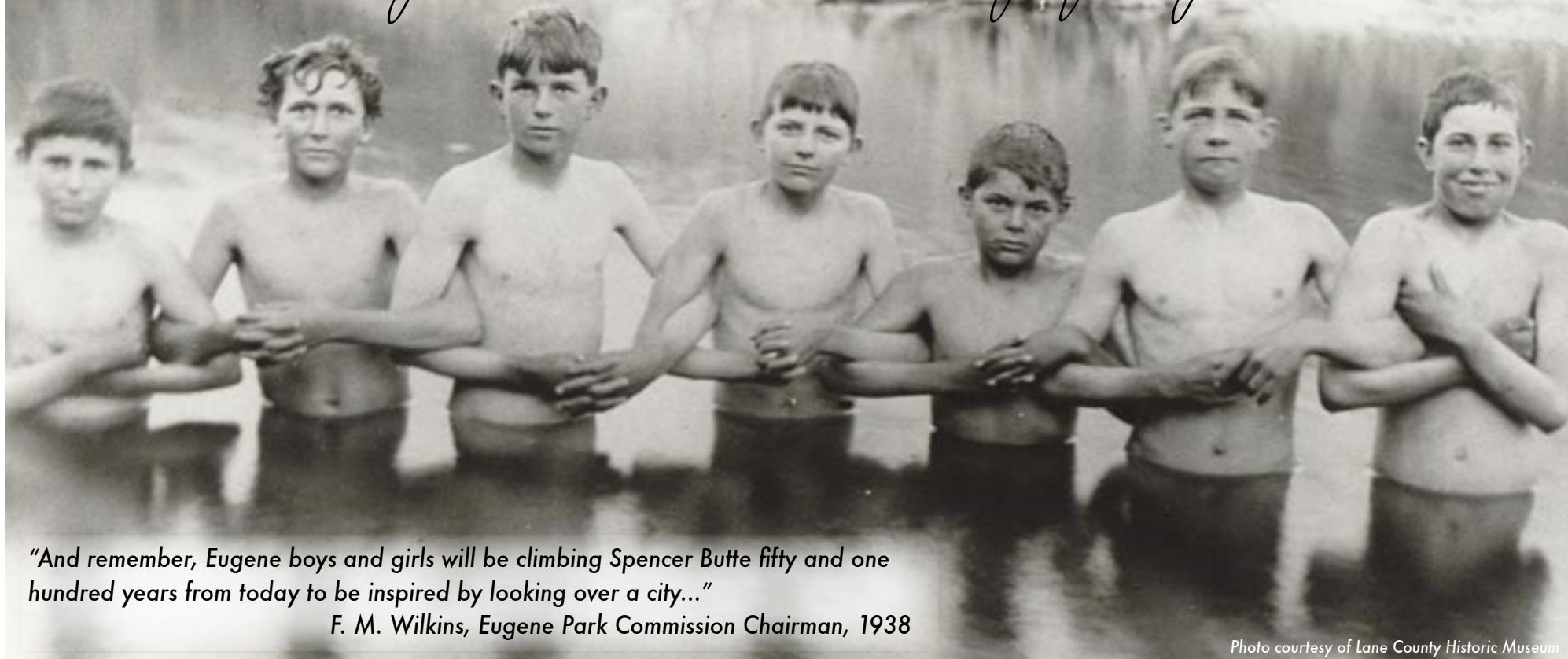
A publication of the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division

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www.eugene-or.gov/parks
Spring/Summer 2006

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Eugene Parks



"And remember, Eugene boys and girls will be climbing Spencer Butte fifty and one hundred years from today to be inspired by looking over a city..."

F. M. Wilkins, Eugene Park Commission Chairman, 1938

Photo courtesy of Lane County Historic Museum



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Eugene Residents Played a Vital Role in Today's Parks and Open Spaces

One hundred years ago, 78 acres of land boasting mature forests and spectacular natural beauty was set aside by Eugene's citizens for the creation of the city's first park – Hendricks Park. In the ensuing years, our system of parks and open spaces has grown into one of Eugene's most enduring assets – and one which we proudly point to as a defining feature of our unique arts and outdoors identity.

Thanks to the wisdom and generosity of past and present citizens, civic leaders and parks planners, Eugene's parks now offer respite and enjoyment to people of all ages, abilities, and preferences. Whether you're looking for solitude or group fun, state-of-the-art playground features or unspoiled natural beauty, a peaceful commuting route or a great event venue, the diversity and quality of our parks is second to none.

It is human nature to treasure that which is beautiful, fragile, and irreplaceable. As we celebrate our unique network of parks, we must

continue to be vigilant in protecting and enhancing our developed and undeveloped open spaces so that future generations of Eugeneans can also enjoy these precious resources.

Please join me in celebrating 100 years of parks and open space in Eugene.

Kitty Piercy

Kitty Piercy
Mayor



Planning For The Future Of Eugene's Parks

By Carolyn Weiss, Parks & Open Space Planning Manager

The Eugeneans of today honor the past by showing support for local parks and planning for the future. As our community grows, additional parks and open space will be needed. Current estimates show Eugene's population growing by 50,000 people in the next 20 years. That's a 30 percent population increase from today. In order to keep pace with this growth, and maintain the livability of our city, Eugene needs to expand its parks and open space system.

After a 3-year long planning process and the involvement of over 3,000 Eugeneans, the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Comprehensive Plan is complete. This planning document identifies a vision for the community's future:

We envision an interconnected and accessible system of vibrant public spaces, friendly neighborhood parks, thriving natural areas and diverse recreation opportunities that make our city a healthy, active, and beautiful place in which to live, work, and play.

The plan also sets out strategies for achieving this vision. Many of the strategies address the need to expand the availability of parks, open space, and recreation opportunities to all Eugene residents.

Strategies include:

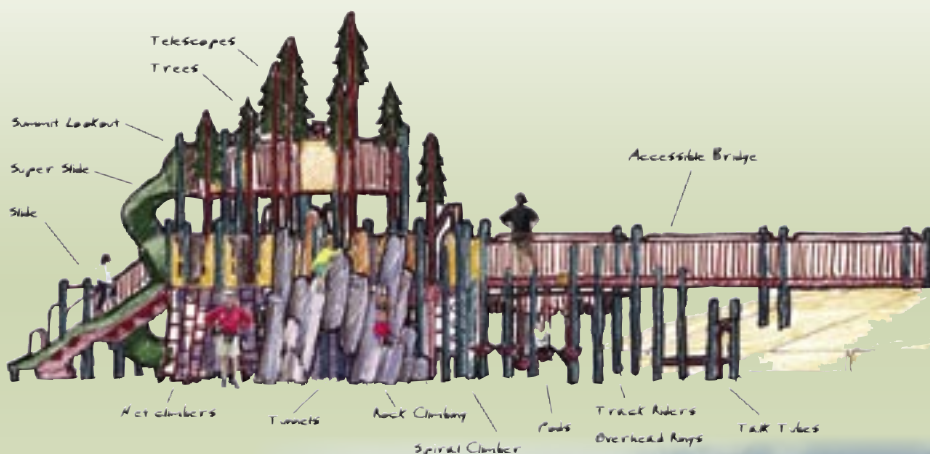
- Provide neighborhood parks within a half mile of most residents for convenient and safe walking access.
- Increase recreational trails to provide a safe trail network that links neighborhoods, parks, natural open space, schools, recreation sites and other key community attractions.
- Work with partner agencies, especially schools, to help meet demand for indoor and outdoor sports facilities.
- Provide more access to the Willamette River for water-related recreation and trail uses. Continue to acquire open space to expand the Ridgeline Trail.

The plan also addresses the need to preserve and steward our existing system of parks and open space. It builds on a rich history of parks and public support which began 100 years ago.



Photo courtesy of Vern Rogers

Riverplay Discovery Village Grand Opening



On Saturday, July 8th, the community will be invited to help celebrate the much anticipated Grand Opening of the City of Eugene's newest addition to our park system. The RiverPlay Playground will be the largest, most unique playground in our region. Reflecting themes of our area's natural and cultural history, this fully accessible playground will feature a Pioneer Village, the Little Willamette River, an Ancient History Sand Dig, and a 25 foot play structure representing Skinner Butte.

The **Eugene Rotary Club** has played a major role in bringing this playground to life by helping raise over \$400,000 from local businesses and granting organizations. In addition, over 500 bricks have been purchased at \$100 a piece by local residents as part of our "One Brick at a Time" campaign. In order to reach our fundraising goal, we are hoping to sell 500 more personalized bricks by March 31st. Join us on July 8th for an afternoon of ribbon cutting, dedications, games, prizes, music, food, and much more! For more information or to purchase a brick, contact Carrie Peterson at 682-4907 or carrie.a.peterson@ci.eugene.or.us



West Eugene Wetlands

By Jean Jancaitis, Wetlands Ecology Coordinator

Fewer than 20 years ago, connecting and protecting the system of wetlands that make up the West Eugene Wetlands was just a dream of some forward-looking Eugene citizens. Now, thanks to a partnership that includes the City of Eugene, the Bureau of Land Management, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Oregon Youth Conservation Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Willamette Resources and Education Network (WREN), and the McKenzie River Land Trust, the West Eugene Wetlands encompasses 3,000 acres and provides a variety of educational and recreational activities. These wetlands also provide many important ecosystem services for our community, such as reducing flood damage by storing flood waters, acting as biological filters to remove sediment and other water pollutants, and providing habitat for migratory waterfowl and rare plants and animals.

The West Eugene Wetlands Partnership continues to work to increase the services it provides for the community with many exciting

projects planned for the future. One major project includes the construction of the West Eugene Wetlands Education Center. With a dedicated building, the Willamette Resources and Education Network (WREN) will be able to expand the educational opportunities currently provided with the use of new classrooms, an exhibit hall and auditorium, a reference library, and a laboratory and greenhouse for students.

Recreational opportunities in the wetlands include the Amazon Creek Multi-Use Path which currently ends at the Meadowlark Prairie Overlook. Future plans include extending the path all the way to Fern Ridge Reservoir as well as connecting the path to the Ridgeline Trail system. When the connections are complete, the trail will link the headwaters of Amazon Creek to where it empties into Fern Ridge Reservoir.

The West Eugene Wetlands Partnership has historically focused restoration efforts on



West Eugene Wetlands Education Center

wetlands habitats; however, many animals use both wetlands and adjacent uplands during their life. It is therefore important for us to start connecting restored habitats of all types. To do this, we plan to integrate more upland prairie and oak savanna habitat into our restoration plans. This includes restoring City parks such as Wild Iris Ridge and Murray Hill.

For more information, visit our web site www.eugene-or.gov and then navigate to the Wetlands Program by clicking in the City Quick links on West Eugene Wetlands. To volunteer in the wetlands, contact Lorna Baldwin with Eugene Stream Team at 682-4850 or Liz Myers-Brown with WREN at 683-6483 or visit www.wewetlands.org.

Ridgeline Trail

By Philip Richardson, Parks Planning Landscape Architect

When the citizens of Eugene raised the money to purchase Spencer Butte in 1938, this prominent landmark was nearly two miles outside the city limits. Today, as the city has expanded out to the foot of the Butte, the Ridgeline Park has also expanded in size and concept. We're striving to have the same foresight and purpose in planning for and meeting the needs of future generations. We envision the future Ridgeline Park as a 20 mile long greenbelt connecting Fern Ridge Reservoir in the east to the Willamette River in the west, running along and through the hills

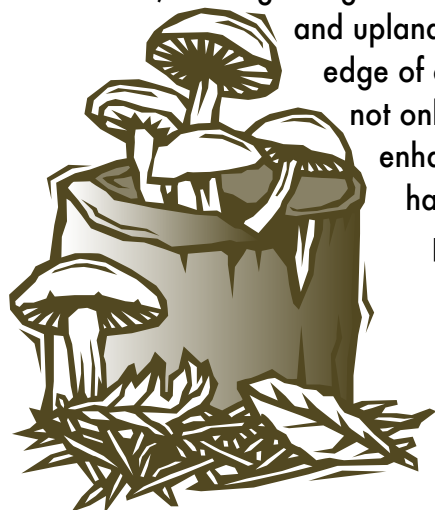
and uplands at the southern edge of our city. It will not only protect and enhance a variety of habitats, but it will provide regional recreational opportunities, and enhance and conserve

our area's natural, scenic, and historic landscapes.

Through the development of more connector trails, future trailheads will be within short walking distance of many neighborhoods providing Eugene residents with easy access to a trail system that integrally connects with a much larger regional system, including trails to the crest of the Cascade Mountains, and a rail trail to the Oregon Coast.

We envision actively partnering with other landowners in the area, public agencies, non-profits, and private citizens, in order to pool resources and information to more effectively manage the area.

As our city grows, what makes the Ridgeline important to us now will only become more intensified: a wonderful place to walk, hike, bike, and relax; a scenic backdrop to the bustle of the city; a reservoir of abundant habitats; a system that helps cleanse our air and water; and a park that helps define Eugene's sense of place.

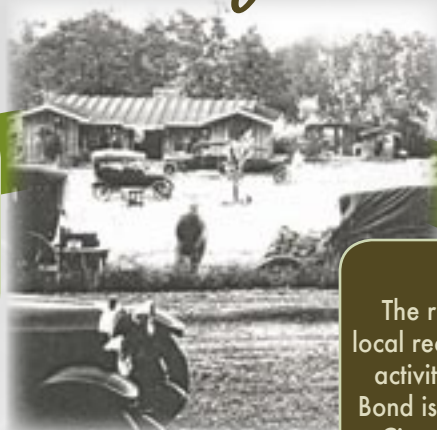


Eugene Residents Shape 100 Years of Parks



1914
A portion of Skinner Butte is given to the City to "preserve its beauty and commemorate its historical value."

1906
The Hendricks family donates land to form the beginning of Hendricks Park.



1920's
The riverfront is a hub of local recreational and cultural activities. A \$10,000 Park Bond is approved to improve City parks and build free campgrounds.

1929
Eugene's first parks and recreation department created.

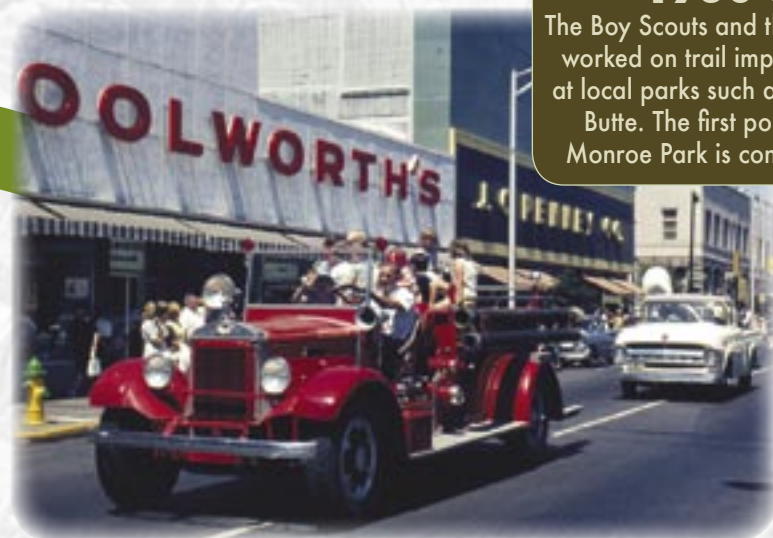


1969
Echo Hollow Pool completed.



1970's
Oregon establishes the Willamette Greenway Plan, a state program designed to restore and protect the Willamette River by creating a greenway along its banks.

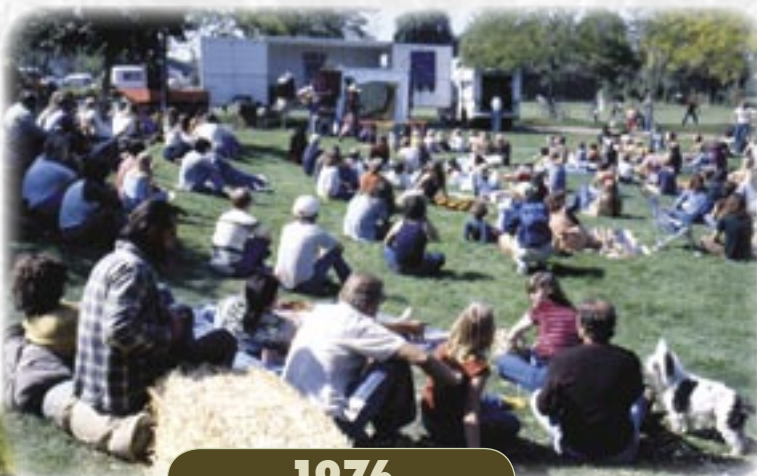
Candlelight, Golden Gardens, and State Street Parks are established.



1960's
The Boy Scouts and the Jaycees worked on trail improvement at local parks such as Spence Butte. The first portion of Monroe Park is constructed.

1972
Eugene residents pass a city bond measure that acquires land along the Willamette River in order to establish a public riverfront system that later links Skinner Butte Park and Owen Rose Garden.

1973
A 12 mile bike path connects all riverfront parks, from Beltiline to Alton Baker.



1976
A \$5 million dollar levy passes to fund park improvements and acquisitions.

1978
Eugene's first community garden is established at Amazon Park.

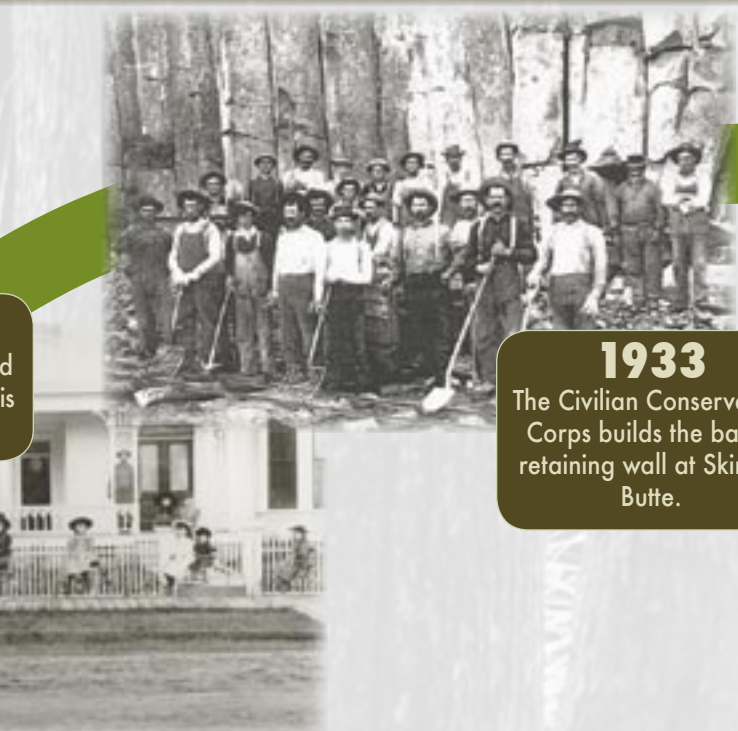


1979
The first portion of Delta Ponds is purchased for open space preservation.



1980's
Eugene has a network of parks comprising 1,500 acres and includes swimming pools, sports fields, community centers, and courts. The population of Eugene has risen 23% over the past decade, and over 100,000 people live in Eugene.



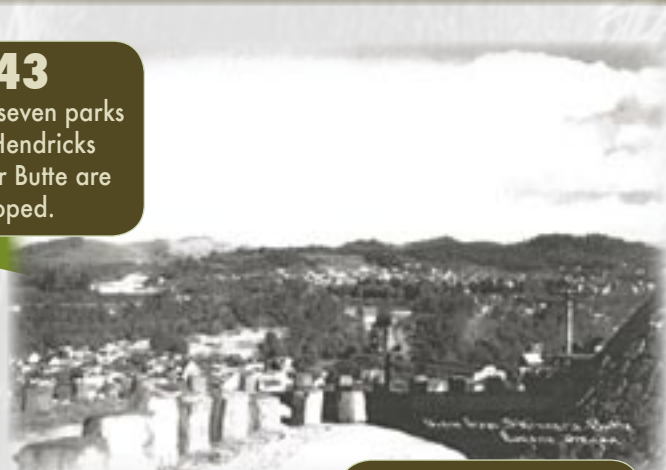


1933
The Civilian Conservation Corps builds the basalt retaining wall at Skinner Butte.

1938
Eugene residents start the "buy a piece of the Butte" campaign. For five dollars community members became part of the future by helping set aside 280 acres on Spencer Butte.



1943
Eugene has seven parks but only Hendricks and Skinner Butte are developed.



1946
Sladden Park is being used to house World War II veterans.

1947
Grand Opening of Amazon Park's Century Field.



1950
Eugene's park system has tripled and now encompasses 18 parks.

1951
Voters approve a \$1 million dollar ten-year levy for park acquisition and development. George Owen donates the land later to be the site of the Owen Rose Garden.



1959
The Amazon Park Swimming Pool opens to an enthusiastic crowd.

1994
Restoration begins at West Eugene Wetlands.



1999
Eugene Delta Rotarians adopt Owen Rose Garden to provide upkeep and beautification services.



1998
A growing Eugene increases the demand for new parks, open spaces, and diverse recreation opportunities. A \$25 million dollar 1998 bond measure allows the City to acquire land for future parks and natural areas, build 10 new parks, make improvements to existing parks and sports fields, and enhance natural areas.

1991
First Off Leash Dog Park Established



2002
As part of their centennial celebration, the Eugene Downtown Rotary Club raises over \$400,000 to help build the new RiverPlay Playground at Skinner Butte Park.



2006
Eugene's citywide parks and open space system has grown to over 70 public parks, 43 playgrounds, 6 community gardens, 50 miles of trails, 43 sports fields, 4 off-leash dog parks, and over 2,000 acres of natural areas.

Over the past 100 years, Eugene residents have donated land, raised funds, volunteered their time, and spearheaded and approved local bond measures that have created what is today a diverse and thriving parks and open space system. This edition of the Eugene Outdoors is dedicated to the foresight of past generations that made Eugene such a special place to live.



A portion of these photos courtesy of Vern Rogers, April Piccola and the Lane County Historical Museum

Parks & Trails Under Construction in 2006

Funded in part by 1998 Parks and Opens Space bond

Amazon Headwaters Trail: A third footbridge will be constructed for the new Amazon Headwaters Trail, creating an additional shorter connection between the Ridgeline Trail and the south end of Amazon Parkway's Rexus Trail near Frank Kinney Park.

Brewer Park: A renovated playground, new picnic area, access improvements, and other upgrades are on the way for this 3-acre neighborhood park in the Willakenzie neighborhood. Located off Brewer Avenue, just south of Beltline, this cozy park has served the neighborhood for decades, and was last improved around 25 years ago. The current project will revitalize the park, bringing needed improvements for fun, safety, and access.

Candlelight Park: Major construction will begin this summer for Candlelight Park, a new 12-acre neighborhood park located north of Royal Avenue in west Eugene. Plans include relocating and improving the stream channel for habitat and water quality, installing a new children's play area, athletic field, basketball court, walking paths, picnic areas and picnic shelter, trees and shrubs, as well as providing some dog park improvements.

Filbert Meadows Park: Located in the northwest Santa Clara neighborhood near Hyacinth Street, this new 3.3-acre neighborhood park will be improved with a children's playground, picnic area, pathways, accessible parking, open areas, new trees and shrubs, and a unique landform dubbed "Orchard Hill." The design for the park also calls for the preservation of a remnant filbert and walnut orchard located within the park.

Walnut Grove Park: Encompassing a pond and portion of Spring Creek, this unique neighborhood park serves the northwestern River Road neighborhood. The unique design for the park includes measures to help protect the western pond turtle, a sensitive species that uses the area for nesting. Improvements this

summer will focus on installing fencing to protect the sensitive habitat while allowing public use. Budget permitting, trails will also be constructed to improve access through the remnant orchard of nut trees.



Centennial Celebration Activities

Saturday, March 11

Centennial Celebration & Community Hero Awards Dinner
at the Downtown Athletic Club Ballroom
Honoring Darryl Larson and Jim Torrey

Sunday, April 30th

Children's Nature Film Festival
2 p.m. at the McDonald Theater
This free festival offers children the chance to see award winning nature films from around the world

Saturday, July 8th

RiverPlay Discovery Village Playground
Grand Opening Celebration

September

Birthday party for Hendricks Park

For more information on all of these events call 682-4800



Hendricks Park



Over the next 100 years, Hendricks Park will grow and change with the plants and animals that call it home, and the community that will continue to make memories here. Changes to the park may include the addition of an education center for lectures and community gatherings. Park staff and volunteers will persist in their efforts to clear the invasive ivy that remains on over 40 acres. The ecological functions of the oak woodland and oak knoll areas will be restored and enhanced through the removal of invasive species and the planting of natives such as camas and oso berry. The creek that currently runs under turf through the park could be unearthed to flow naturally again. Staff and volunteer associations like the Friends of Hendricks Park, will continue their work together in caring for the rhododendron and native plant gardens; the large fir trees transitioning into an old growth forest; and all of the other resources that have made this park such a special place in our community.

Delta Ponds

For decades, Delta Ponds has been transitioning from an abandoned gravel mine into a thriving ecosystem providing wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities within an otherwise urban setting. The breach recently created by the Army Corps of Engineers, allowed water from the Willamette to flow into a portion of the ponds providing species, such as juvenile salmon, a safe place in which to grow. This work was just the first phase of a large floodplain restoration project that will connect the entire Delta Ponds system to the Willamette River during the winter months. In the future, City staff and partner agencies will continue to restore the riparian forest habitat along the ponds. New viewing areas and pedestrian trails will be constructed in order to improve public access. An outdoor classroom will one day offer children an exciting way to learn about the ecosystem of the ponds, and why species such as western pond turtles, blue heron, and great horned owls thrive here.

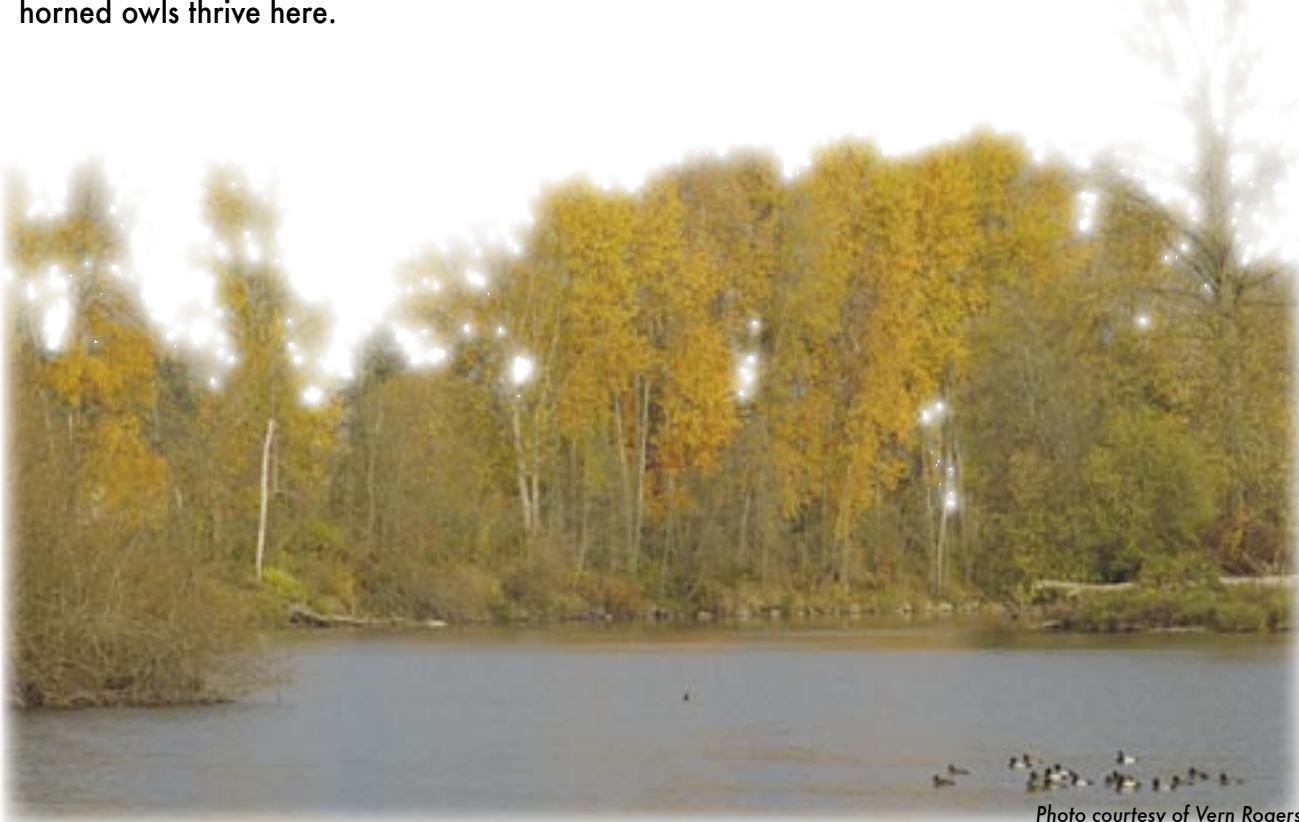


Photo courtesy of Vern Rogers

EUGENE— World's Greatest City for the Arts & Outdoors!



From the annual Bach Festival to over 50 miles of bike and natural trails, our arts and outdoor resources are considered to be key community assets and major contributors to our overall quality of life. Promoting “Arts and Outdoors” as a theme for Eugene has been made a priority issue by Mayor Piercy and the Eugene City Council. By focusing on the city’s arts and outdoors resources and presenting a cohesive “Arts and Outdoor” theme, the community has the potential to realize two significant benefits. The first benefit is sustainable economic activity through increased tourism and commerce, and second is the ability to enhance community livability by improving access to arts and outdoors amenities and events for area residents. At this time, the local firm Funk/Levis is developing the marketing plan for this project, and a series of meetings are being planned to bring together arts and outdoors leaders throughout the community in order to take this initiative the next step.

Calendar of Events

All events are open to the public and free, unless otherwise noted with "\$".

MARCH

Saturday 11th, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., *Eugene Parks 100th Anniversary Celebration and Community Hero Awards Dinner*. For more information or to receive an invitation, please contact Carrie Peterson at 682-4907, \$

Sunday 12th, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., *Stream Team's Orientation and Celebration* for new and seasoned volunteers. Native Plant Nursery and Adoption Group volunteers will share their experiences. Meet in the Bascom Room at the downtown library. For more information contact lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us or 682-4850

Saturday 18th, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., *Hendricks Park Forest Work Party*. For more information contact 682-5324

Saturday 18th, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. *West Eugene Wetlands, "Seeing the Wetlands through the Camera's Eye"* Limit: 10 participants, ages 8-12, no experience necessary. To register, call Holly McRae at 683-6494 or email at wew@wewetlands.org

Sunday 19th, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., *Magnolia Tour* with Roger Gossler. This tour begins at Hendricks Park and ends at Ruff Park in Springfield. For more information contact 682-5324.

APRIL

Saturday 8th, 9 a.m. to noon, *Bird Monitoring Training* at Delta Ponds, for more information or to volunteer contact lorna.j.baldwin@ci.eugene.or.us

Saturday 8th, *Nearby Nature Egg Walk* in Alton Baker Park 687-9699

Sunday 9th, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., *Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden Tour* with Michael Robert 682-5324

Saturday 22nd, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., *Hendricks Park Forest Work Party* 682-5324

Sunday 23rd, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. *Hendricks Park Tree Walk* with Whitey Lueck 682-5324

Saturday 29th, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., *Hendricks Park Bird ID Walk* with Dan Gleason 682-5324

Saturday 29th, *March of Dimes Walk America* at Alton Baker Park 686-2170

Sunday 30th, 2 p.m. *The First Annual Children's Nature Film Festival* will offer children a chance to see award winning nature films from around the world 682-4814

MAY

Wednesday 3rd, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., *Hendricks Park Wildflower Garden Tour* 682-5324

Wednesday 10th, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., *Hendricks Park Bird ID walk* with Dan Gleason 682-5324

Saturday 13th, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., *Hendricks Park Pruning Workshop*; please pre-register with Lane County Extension Service 682-5324

Saturday 13th, *HIV Aids Alliance River Walk & Run* at Alton Baker 342-5088

Sunday 14th, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., *Mother's Day Family Course* at Spencer Butte Challenge Course 682-6324

Tuesday 16th, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., *Hendricks Park Pruning Workshop for Master Gardener Program*, Lane County Extension Service 682-5324

Sunday 21st, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. *Hendricks Park Native Plant Garden Tour* 682-5324

Saturday 27th, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., *Hendricks Park Forest Work Party* 682-5324

JUNE

Saturday 3rd, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., *First Saturday Park Walks*. Local experts guide walks focusing on northwest plants and animals 682-5368

Sunday 18th, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., *Hendricks Park Medicinal Plant Tour* with Tobias Policha 682-5324

Saturday 24th, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., *Hendricks Park Forest Work Party* 682-5324

Saturday 24th, *City of Eugene Safety Festival* at Alton Baker Park 682-7118

June 29-July 5th, *22nd Annual Art & The Vineyard* 345-1571, \$

JULY

Saturday 1st, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., *First Saturday Park Walks*. Local experts guide walks focusing on northwest plants and animals 682-5368

Saturday 8th, *RiverPlay Discovery Village Grand Opening* at Skinner Butte Park 682-4907

Saturday 29th, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. *Japanese American Association Obon & Taiko Festival* at Alton Baker Park 484-4656

Saturday and Sunday 14-15, *Willamette Valley Relay* 503-282-1677

**Sunday
April 30 at 2 p.m.
McDonald Theater • 1010 Willamette St
FREE for ALL ages!**

**A fun reception will follow with
"Giant Critters," snacks, & lots of
great outdoor activity ideas.**

**For more information contact 682-4814 or
kelly.a.darnell@ci.eugene.or.us**



Eugene Outdoors! is published semiannually by the City of Eugene Parks and Open Space Division to share information about Eugene's parks and open space and encourage the community to enjoy our recreational facilities, parks and natural areas. Let us know what you think about Eugene's parks and open space. Contact us by phone, mail, e-mail, or through the web.

City of Eugene
Public Works Department
Parks and Open Space Division
1820 Roosevelt Boulevard, Eugene, Oregon 97402
(541) 682-4800 • Fax (541) 682-4882
E-mail: pos@ci.eugene.or.us
www.eugene-or.gov/parks

Kelly Darnell, Editor
Kim Mast, Graphic Designer